

Donella Gardner

Donella Gardner, 34, Groton, died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2001, at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. Her funeral was held Friday, Feb. 16, at the United Methodist Church, Groton, with the Rev. Richard Collman officiating. Burial was in the Milbank City Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Donella Van Asch was born September 26, 1966, in Ortonville, Minn., to Dennis and June (Hoeke) Van Asch. At the age of four, Donella moved with her family to Aberdeen where her father was employed with Northwestern Bell. One year later they moved to Redfield where she lived until the second grade. They moved to Aberdeen where Donella attended Aberdeen Central High School and graduated in 1984. Following high school she attended Northern State College in Aberdeen for two years. She was employed at ShopKo and the Lumber Company, both in Aberdeen. In August 1990 she began working for Riddle's Jewelry in Aberdeen where she was the assistant manager. On April 16, 1988, she married Brad Gardner in Aberdeen.

Donella was a member of the United Methodist Church, Groton, where she was active in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, was on the educational committee and sang solos in church.

Donella was known for her beautiful music and loved to share it with



others. She also loved sports, music, her family and friends. Donella was a very loving and devoted Christian, mom, daughter and friend.

Donella is survived by one son, Tanner Gardner, Groton; her parents, Dennis (June) Van Asch, Milbank; her fiancé, Raleigh Knutson, Wallace; aunts and uncles, Karen (Delton) Hanson, Billings, Mont., Marjorie (Dale) Boerger, Milbank; cousins Kim (Todd) Goetschius, Milbank, Tim Boerger, Aberdeen, Wayne (Gretchen) Boerger, Minneapolis, Troy (Paula) Hanson, Britton, and Chad (LaRae) Hanson, Newell; and special friends Mary and Justin Harry, Groton.